DEMOCRATIC

GERMAN REPORT

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EAST — WEST TALKS START

People's Chamber Delegates in Bonn

Talks which may eventually lead to German re-unification began in Bonn on September 19th, when an East German Parliamentary delegation was received by the Chairman of the West German Parliament.

The delegates, who had been elected by the People's Chamber of the German Democratic Republic, handed over a letter to Dr. Hermann Ehlers, West German Parliamentary Chairman, making three definite proposals to aid unity. They were:

1. **East and West Germany should send a joint delegation to attend a Four Power Conference on the peace treaty with Germany.**
2. **East and West Germany should establish a joint commission to investigate the conditions for free all-German elections in both halves of Germany.**
3. **Delegates from the East German People's Chamber should be given an opportunity to address the West German Parliament on their unity plans, and vice versa.**

(Text of the letter will be found on page 2.)

The reception of the East German delegations was the first top level contact between administrations in East and West Germany since an abortive meeting of the provincial Prime Ministers from all four zones in 1947.

Since October 1950 the Government and Parliament of the German Democratic Republic have made a whole series of unity offers to the West German administration, but these have always been turned down by Adenauer and his extreme pro-American group.

In this case too Adenauer did all he should to stop the commencement of all-German discussions, but the pressure, both from the public and from members of the West German parliament, had become too great.

In final efforts to stop the meeting, gangs of neo-fascists were mobilised to attempt to mob the East German delegates. West German police were out in great force in Bonn on the date of the reception, but significantly not a single fascist rioter was reported arrested. On the other hand police rounded up dozens of known progressives in the Bonn area, hoping thereby to suppress demonstrations for a peaceful unified Germany.

The delegates who travelled to West Germany in the unity bid were a cross section of the Democratic Block which has reconstructed the German Democratic Republic so successfully on a peaceful basis. They were:

Hermann Matern, Deputy Chairman of the Peoples Chamber (Socialist Unity Party); Deputy Prime Minister Otto Nuschke (Christian Democratic Union); Minister for Supply Karl Hamann (Liberal Democratic Party), Heinrich Homann (National Democratic Party); and Ernst Goldenbaum (Democratic Peasants Party).

Niemoeller Greets Talks

Famed anti-nazi Pastor Martin Niemoeller warmly greeted the news of the unity talks .

"Such discussions were what the Evangelical Church had in mind when it called upon the entire German people to start East-West talks" he said. "When the unity of Germany is at stake we must be prepared to overcome all obstacles."

(More news of talks on p. 3)

Huge Export Orders at Leipzig Fair

The nationally-owned industry of the German Democratic Republic booked bigger export orders than ever before at this year's Leipzig Fair, which closed on September 17th.

Provisional returns of business done at the fair showed that goods worth more than 100 million marks had been ordered by West German firms, and that exports would be bigger than at any time since 1945.

Main buyers were Czechoslovakia, Poland and the Soviet Union, all of which countries ordered very large quantities of machinery, optical and electrical equipment.

Western countries also placed large orders. Denmark bought motor vehicles valued at 300,000 dollars, and Holland sewing machines and sporting guns for 140,000 dollars.

On the last day of the fair alone export orders for optical equipment valued at nearly seven million rubles were placed by the People's Democracies.

ADENAUER CALLS FOR TANKS

West German Chancellor Adenauer has asked the American occupation authorities to provide tanks to patrol the motor highway leading from West Germany to West Berlin through the German Democratic Republic, according to reports from Bonn.

He made this request at a meeting with General Ridgway and American High Commissioner Walter Donnelly, the East German news agency ADN reported, quoting Bonn circles in close touch with Adenauer.

At the same time Adenauer asked for American fighter planes to patrol the air-corridors from West Germany to Berlin, and made other requests aimed at increasing East-West tension. These other requests included the demand for more occupation troops, and the imposition of a state of emergency along the demarcation line through Germany.

The Steps to German Unity

Text of the Letter addressed to the West German Parliament on September 19th by the East German People's Chamber

The German people have the right to the speedy conclusion of a peace treaty, and they must be given the opportunity to express their wishes. The preparation of a peace treaty demands a certain amount of time, since the conditions must be thoroughly discussed and differences of opinion must be overcome.

It is therefore necessary that discussions on the conclusion of a peace treaty should be begun without delay. It is equally necessary that neither East Germany nor West Germany should be bound by any sort of obligation which would imperil the conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany or the re-unification of Germany.

No Delay

In view of the situation in which Germany finds herself at present the negotiations on a peace treaty with Germany cannot be postponed until an all-German Government is in existence, since the formation of such a government demands a certain time. As long as no all-German Government exists it is absolutely necessary that representatives of East and West Germany should take part in the negotiations of the Four Great Powers on a peace treaty with Germany and the re-unification of Germany, in order to represent the point of view of the German people.

Immediate Steps

In order that no further time may be lost, negotiations should be begun immediately, and simultaneously, on the necessary steps to be taken both for the preparation of the peace treaty and for the formation of an all-German Government.

There is no difference of opinion among Germans on the fact that only an all-German Government has the right to sign a peace treaty in the name of Germany after the terms of the treaty have been examined by a freely elected German National Assembly.

The German people cannot tolerate that on the one hand the conclusion of a peace treaty and the formation of an all-German Government be delayed, while on the other hand the so-called Bonn Treaty is being concluded in great haste.

This Bonn Treaty imposes unilateral obligations on West Germany and makes more difficult the conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany and the re-unification of our homeland. For this reason the German people reject the Bonn Treaty and demand Four Power negotiations on the conclusion of a peace treaty and the re-establishment of German unity.

The People's Chamber of the German Democratic Republic therefore proposes to the German Federal Parliament that they should jointly demand the summoning without delay of a Four Power Conference in which representatives of East and West Germany should participate. They should hold discussions with the aim of reaching an understanding between the representatives of East and West Germany on the mutual protection of German interests.

At the same time the People's Chamber of the German Democratic Republic proposes to the West German Parliament that they should form a commision composed of representatives of East and West Germany to investigate the conditions for holding free elections in the whole of Germany; and that discussions should be held without delay on the method of establishing this investigating commission and the date when it should begin work.

Election Commission

The Government of the German Democratic Republic is ready at any time to allow this commission to carry out the necessary investigations in all parts of the German Democratic Republic, on condition that the commission is granted similar rights in West Germany.

The People's Chamber of the German Democratic Republic is of the opinion that practical measures should now at last be taken to hold free all-German elections. The sooner the commission proposed above is established, the sooner can free general elections be held for a German National Assembly.

Agreement on the formation of an investigating commission would remove the basis for argument as to which point should come first on the agenda of the Four Power Conference.

An understanding on the question of the participation of representatives of East and West Germany in a Four Power Conference and on the formation of an investigating commission for free all-German elections would be a decisive step towards bringing East and West Germany together, and would help to smooth the path for the solution of other problems still unsolved between the two parts of Germany.

In addition, the People's Chamber of the German Democratic Republic submits the following proposals to the German Federal Parliament:

The delegation of the People's Chamber of the German Democratic Republic should be given a chance to present to the German Federal Parliament, without let or hindrance, the standpoint of the People's Chamber regarding all questions under discussion. For its part the People's Chamber of the German Democratic Republic invites the West German Federal Parliament to send a delegation to Berlin to present the standpoint of the Federal Parliament in a similar manner to the People's Chamber.

Exchange of Views

An open exchange of views in this manner would be, at the same time, the first step towards the creation of the same free conditions in all parts of Germany, in preparation for all-German elections.

The People's Chamber of the German Democratic Republic requests the Federal Parliament to reply to the proposals made as soon as possible. In this connection the People's Chamber emphasises the urgency of an all-German understanding, so that no more time may be lost in ensuring peace and the re-unification of Germany.

The delegation of the People's Chamber of the German Democratic Republic is empowered to remain in Bonn in order to receive the German Federal Parliament's reply to the proposals made, from the representatives appointed by the Federal Parliament for this purpose.

Let us give each other our hands in understanding. Let us go forward together to establish a united, democratic, peace-loving and democratic Germany. That is the path which leads to peace and to happiness for our people.

Television Courses at Night School

More than 600,000 people are attending evening classes in the German Democratic Republic to improve their education.

Apart from all the more usual subjects, technical courses have been started this year in television, navigation and meteorology.

"BONN TREATY IS SUICIDE"

– EAST GERMAN DELEGATE

The Bonn Treaty is an open invitation to suicide for the German nation, Hermann Matern, leader of the East German delegation to Bonn told a press conference there on September 20th.

"We have come to Bonn to help stop the ratification of this treaty, and to take the first steps to smooth the road by which East and West can come together" he said.

"There are only two alternatives. One is German understanding, rejection of the Bonn Treaty, Four Power negotiations and a peace treaty.

"The other is ratification of the Bonn Treaty, the abandonment of the chance of German unity, the unlimited extension of foreign domination in West Germany, and war.

"The ratification of the Bonn Treaty would bring us to the brink of war. The military experts of the aggressive states are arguing publicy today about whether they would be able to hold the line of the Rhine or the line of the Pyrennes in case of war.

"At the end of such a new war — and we would not survive to see the end — the few Germans still living amidst the ashes and the corpses would have to bear the just anger of their neighbours, whose peace would have been broken once again by Germany.

"The supporters of the Bonn Treaty declare that it is necessary to guard West Germany and West Europe. To guard it from whom? The Soviet Union threatens nobody, and is busy with the construction of the great projects of Communism.

"It is necessary to state quite plainly: Soviet troops would never have come to Germany if Hitler had not attacked the Soviet Union; and Soviet troops will never stand on the Rhine or on the Pyrennes unless an attack on the Soviet Union forces them to take such action.

"When we appeal today to the Federal Parliament and to the population of West Germany to support our efforts for Four Power negotiations and the conclusion of a peace treaty, we appeal at the same time to the other nations of western Europe.

"These nations must know that a new Germany is arising to replace the old imperialist Germany, the Germany of conquest and enslavement. This new Germany will be a united, independent, democratic and peace-loving Germany. This will mean peace in the whole of Europe, and will frustrate the plans of the foreign imperialists who wish to lay the people of Europe in chains."

PROMINENT BRITONS OPPOSE RATIFICATION

Sir,—Believing as strongly and sincerely as we do that the policy represented by the Contractual Agreement with Germany and the European Defence Treaty will gravely intensify the tension between east and west, increase the danger of another world war, and seriously jeopardize the possibility of German unity, we cannot acquiesce in the recent decision of Parliament to ratify these undertakings or cease our opposition to them. We believe that we speak for an increasing number of thoughtful people in this country as well as in France and Germany.

We believe that a peaceful solution of the German problem is possible: we sincerely hope that the decision of Parliament will not prejudice further the possibility of a meeting of the four Powers and the reaching of such a solution along the lines of the holding of free elections for an all-German Government and the conclusion of a peace treaty which would guarantee the neutrality of Germany and her continued disarmament as part of an all-round scheme of disarmament. We urge, therefore, that every step should be taken to make the four-Power talks possible and effective, and that in the meantime nothing further should be done to take us to the point of no return. Because the agreement and treaty cannot become effective until all the Governments concerned have ratified them, and this course has still to be taken in Paris and Bonn, we are addressing a similar letter to the President of the French Republic and to the President of the western German Federal Republic. Your faithfully,

NORMAN BENTWICH, H. N. BRAILSFORD, VERA BRITTAIN, G. D. H. COLE, ALEX COMFORT, A. C. COPPARD, JOAN MARY FRY, LAURENCE HOUSMAN, KATHLEEN LONSDALE, NAOMI MITCHISON, CHARLES RAVEN, HUGH ROBERTON, DONALD SOPER, SYBIL THORNDIKE, MONICA WHATELEY, VICTOR YATES.

(FROM THE "TIMES", LONDON, 19. 9. 52)

High treason charge against Patriots

Three young West German patriots, accused of having broken up a meeting organised by an American-financed group calling itself the "Independent Free German Youth" have been sent for trial by the West German Supreme Court on a charge of high treason.

Making this ruling Dr. Rheinlaender, Chairman of the Dortmund Court before which they had appeared, stated that the mere fact that the accused had belonged to the Free German Youth, which is banned in West Germany, was evidence of the "treasonable" character of their actions.

Dr. Friedrich Kaul, noted Eeast Berlin lawyer, who wished to travel to Dortmund to defend the young men, was twice arrested and deported by the West German police, although he was in possession of a valid inter-zonal pass.

*

Eleven young Germans who have been held in prison since May, when West Germany police broke up a peace demonstration in Essen, shooting and killing the young partiot Philipp Mueller, have gone on trial in Dortmund. They are charged with taking part in an illegal demonstration.

The mother of one of the accused was gassed by the nazis, and the fathers of three of them served long terms in nazi concentration camps.

On September 18th police in Dortmund, British Zone, opened fire on young people demanding the release of their arrested comrades. One of the demonstrators was wounded in the throat.

Two Saboteurs Jailed

Two American-paid saboteurs, caught red-handed by People's Police in the act of trying to blow up an East Berlin railway bridge, have been sentenced to long prison terms by an East Berlin court.

Georg Kernchen, aged 61, a former full-time nazi party official, was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment, and his assistant Guenther Brauer to 13 years.

The men confessed that they were members of the American-financed "Fighting Group Against Inhumanity", and that in addition to the bridge attack they had committed other acts of sabotage, including using acids to damage machines at the factory where they were employed.

A BISHOP RAISES HIS VOICE

East German Protestant Peace Plea

Bishop Mitzenheim, head of the Lutheran Evangelical Church in Thuringia, East Germany, has written to Bishop Lilje of Hanover, West Germany, appealing for his support in the present endeavours to secure unity and a peace treaty for Germany.

Here is the slightly condensed text of Bishop Mitzenheim's letter, which was prominently displayed in most East German newspapers:

Seriously worried as I am about the fate and the future of our German people, I turn to you, Brother Lilje, as the newly-elected chairman of the Lutheran World Federation and as Deputy Chairman of the Council of the Evangelical Church in Germany. I turn to you also as a brother in the same service, a man whom I know to be concerned about peace on earth for the people to whom we have the task of bringing the joyous word.

Church Task

I am convinced that our church has the task of appealing to those responsible when the vital problems of our people are to be decided. We have the duty to call upon them not to neglect humanity and charity in the decisions they take.

For more than seven years our people have suffered from the arbitrary demarcation line which puts apart those things which should be together, and which not only separates us economically, culturally and in church life, but which has also brought sorrow and bitterness to innumerable individuals. What was originally a demarcation line between allied occupation powers is gradually becoming a frontier between countries or even between continents.

In this situation we have learned of the new note of the Soviet Union, which called for speedy negotiations by the victorious powers on a peace treaty with Germany and the re-establishment of German unity. In connection with this note from the Soviet Union the authorities in the German Democratic Republic have proposed that official negotiations should begin between the Germans on this side and on the other side of the dividing line, in order to arrange for the establishment of an investigating commission on free all-German elections, and to make provision for the representation of German interests with regard to a peace treaty and German unity at a Four Power Conference.

It is my pressing wish, and that of many sections of church, that this offer of contact should not be fruitless.

Every individual, but also the church as an organisation, has the duty to raise their voice at this hour; to demand the commencement of negotiations among Germans, and to request the victorious powers to begin discussions on Germany.

One Problem

The order of the subjects on the agenda for such discussions must be a matter of only secondary importance. A peace treaty, German unity and the establishment of an all-German government are only various aspects of one and the same problem, so that honest efforts to discuss one of these questions will lead to the other, and the solution of one of these questions will bring the solution to the whole problem.

In 1950 we made an appeal to the public from the Weissensee Conference stating:

"End, through a just peace treaty, the war which has so sorely injured the peoples! Remove at last the zonal frontier between east and west which tears our people apart and which threatens the peace of the world! Give the German people the chance to create a new state in liberty, in which east and west can come together again in unity!"

The time has perhaps now come in which this appeal could be brought up to date and repeated.

Malevolent Attacks

I know that the words of the church in this connection will be misunderstood, misinterpreted and malevolently attacked. I know that attempts will be made to decry this as amateur interference in high politics, and that those who dare to speak up for this point of view will be accused of standing for one particular political point of view. Despite this, we must, in the name of charity, raise our voices. We may not relax in our demand that what has been torn asunder may be reunited, and that peace finally be achieved.

I therefore request you, not only in my own name but also in accordance with a unanimous decision by the Thuringian Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, which represents the great majority of the church members in Thuringia:

Give a helping hand from your high office so that all those who long for peace and unity for Germany may come together, united by good will.

Give your help so that the demand for the opening of talks among Germans may be responded to in the western part of our homeland.

Give your help so that both parts of Germany may issue a united appeal to the world powers responsible, asking that they give back to our sorely-tried people a united homeland, and that they refrain from arming the sons of our country against one another.

I greet you, Brother Lilje, united by a sense of responsibility and a sense of service.

D. Mitzenheim.

New Year's Wishes for Jewish Community

The Government of the German Democratic Republic is working to create a Germany free from racial hatred and war propaganda, East German Acting Prime Minister Heinrich Rau assured the Jewish communities of Germany in a message of greetings for the Jewish New Year.

"The working people of the German Democratic Republic will see to it that the crimes of fascism and anti-Semitic persecution are never repeated in this country" the message stated.

Democratic GERMAN REPORT

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Peace-fighter loses Insulin

The West Berlin administration has cut off the insulin supplies of an invalid living there because of his active work for peace.

The invalid, Guenther Schroeter, aged 24, served in the nazi Wehrmacht and learned to hate war. On August 20th he was arrested near his home in West Berlin, and was found to be carrying pamphlets issued by the peace movement.

When he went next week to draw his unemployment assistance he was told that his name had been struck off the lists because of "action hostile to West Berlin". Being cut off the lists for unemployment pay also meant that Schroeter is no longer entitled to insulin supplies which he had previously been getting under the health insurance scheme.

Without insulin Schroeter would have died within a few days. Hospitals and doctors in the Democratic Sector of Berlin gave speedy help, however, and his insulin supplies have been asured.

More for Nazis — Less For Unemployed

The West Berlin City Council has decided to grant 20 percent pay increases to all former nazi city officials who lost their jobs in 1945 and have only recently been reinstated.

At the same session the City Council slashed the rates of public assistance for the 300,000 unemployed in the western sectors of the city.

All Records Smashed

A young East German miner has, together with his youth brigade, accomplished the seemingly impossible: In 20½ months they have completed their norm of production for the Five Year Plan. A congratulatory telegram from the President of the Republic, Wilhelm Pieck, praised the extraordinary efforts of the young workers and their enthusiasm in the building of Socialism in the German Democratic Republic.

Soviet Soldiers Help Fight Fire

More than one hundred Soviet soldiers and officers turned out to help fight a large fire in the nationally-owned rubber factory at Fuerstenwalde, in East Germany early this month.

The Cabinet of the German Democratic Republic has sent an official message of thanks to the Soviet soldiers and the factory workers for saving "the Socialist property of the German Democratic Republic."

Nineteen of the Soviet soldiers were injured, some of them seriously, during the fire-fighting.

POOR WAR CRIMINALS ✠ ✠ ✠

"Easier Life" for Top Nazis

One of the first official acts of Walter J. Donnelly, new U. S. High Commissioner in West Germany, has been to request an easier life for the seven top nazis held under Four Power control in Spandau Prison in the British Sector of Berlin.

Announcing this at a press conference in the American Sector of Berlin Mr. Donnelly said life "should be made little more human and livable" for these top war criminals.

The men confined in Spandau are Rudolf Hess, former deputy Fuehrer (life term); Admiral Erich Raeder (life); Admiral Karl Doenitz (10 years); banker Walter Funk (life); diplomat Konstantin von Neurath (15 years); Hitler youth leader Baldur von Schirach (20 years); and munitions producer Albert Speer (20 years).

Spandau Prison is administered for monthly periods by Britain, France, United States and the Soviet Union in turn.

Adenauer Wants War Criminals Freed

By Associated Press

Bonn, Sept. 17. — Chancellor Conrad Adenauer told parliament and the West German people today that the west has freed 75 percent of the convicted German war criminals in the last two years. He held out hope for the early release of most of the others.

"We feel that the continued practice of keeping these persons in jail is unjust because there is no real legal basis" said Dr Hans von Merkatz, a German Party deputy.

"Not justice, but power and policy dictated the war-crimes trials" said Social Democratic deputy Hans Merten.

Criminals Released

The British authorities in Germany have released nine more war criminals from Werl prison. Seven of the nine had originally been sentenced to death for murdering allied prisoners or slave labourers.

✠ ✠ ✠ AND THEIR CRIMES

To refresh the memory of readers, GERMAN REPORT prints below a short extract from the evidence given in 1945 by SS Doctor Trezebinski, one of the murderers at the Neuengamme Concentration Camp near Hamburg. He was testifying soon after the war before the British Military Court which tried the Neuengamme guards for war crimes.

In this extract Trezebinski was speaking of the last days of April 1945, a day or two before the concentration camp was liberated.

"We took the children who had been used for the tubercular experiments into the air-raid shelter of the Bullenhuserdamm school. The children were carrying their packages and some toys which they had made themselves. They sat down on the benches and seemed to be happy to be out of the camp for once. There were 20 of them, half boys and half girls, aged between five and twelve. They all spoke broken German with a Polish accent.

"After a while Squad Leader Frahm came in and told the children to undress. I told them it was for a typhus injection. Then I took Frahm outside and asked him what was going to happen. He told me I should hang the children.

"I gave the children injections of morphium . . . and when they got tired I laid them on the floor and covered them with their clothes.

"About 20 minutes later Frahm came back, took a 12 year old lad on his arm, and said to the others "I am just taking him to bed." He went into a room about eight yards away, and placed the sleeping boy's head in a noose which he had already prepared.

"Then Frahm grasped the boy's feet, and dragged them down with all his force so that the noose closed.

"I did not feel very well, so I went away . . .

"When I came back dawn was breaking, and all the children had gone from the air raid shelter. Only their bundles and toys lay on the floor. I found Frahm and he opened up the other room. All the children were lying there with the marks of hanging round their necks, and I examined each child to make sure he was dead."

WHAT IS A PRODUCTION CO-OP?

How the Peasants Get Together

Peasant production cooperatives, in which peasants and landworkers pool their land and their labour in order to produce more goods with less effort, are springing up in all parts of the German Democratic Republic.

The basis upon which these cooperatives work can be seen very well from the following extracts from the statutes of the Production Cooperative in the village of Worin in the Seelow district. It should be noted that these cooperatives are a new development still in the experimental stage, and that the conditions vary from one area to another.

Here are some of the main points from the statute:

1. Aims and Tasks of the Cooperative.

We, the working peasants and landworkers of Worin in the German Democratic Republic, have decided to join together voluntarily on this 29th June 1952 in a production cooperative in order to enjoy the advantages provided by joint work and cooperative production. The use of modern machines and implements and the most progressive results of agricultural sciene will lighten greatly the hard work done by the peasants.

2. Use of the Land.

The land of the cooperative consists of:

a) land, both personal property and leased, brought into the cooperative by members,

b) land leased to the cooperative free by the state.

Each working peasant who joins the cooperative puts his tillable soil at the disposal of the cooperative. This land will be cropped in accordance with the central plans. Gardens, woods and meadows belonging to peasants joining the cooperative remain in the use of the individual.

Each member of the cooperative may retain half a hectare of land (a little over one acre) for growing vegetables.

The land remains the property of the peasant. A peasant who resigns from the cooperative or who is expelled will receive equivalent land of the same quality on the edge of the cooperatively cropped land.

3. The Use of Agricultural Machines etc.

All peasants joining the cooperative retain their animals and agricultural machinery as their own property and for their own use. They must provide their machinery and horses, oxen, tractors etc. in return for payment.

4. Membership.

Entry into the cooperative is on a fully voluntary basis.

The following persons may become members of the cooperative: working peasants, landworkers, and all villagers without distinction of sex, who have completed their eighteenth year. A simple majority of votes in a full meeting of members of the cooperative is sufficient for acceptance.

The following persons may **not** become members of the cooperative: black-marketeers, former wholesalers, speculators, peasants with large holdings, shopkeepers and innkeepers who are employers of labour.

Expulsions from the cooperative can only be made at full meetings at which a minimum of two thirds of the members are present.

5. The Duties of the Cooperative, the Committee, and the Members.

The cooperative pledges itself to work in accordance with plan and to take all necessary measures so that the plan for agricultural production is fulfilled.

The committee of the cooperative and all members pledge themselves to carry out the following tasks:

a) to improve crop yields by introducing a correct rotation of crops, by using deep-plowing methods, by campaigning against pests, using correct fertilisation methods, bringing in the harvest in good time, and by devoting strict attention to all agro-technical advice,

b) to use only the best approved grades of seed,

c) to use the machines and the draught animals provided by the tractor stations and members of the cooperative in the most profitable way, and to return them in good condition,

d) to build and furnish the necessary farm buildings and facilities for social and cultural purposes,

e) to continue the training of all members of the cooperative, to start courses, and to send members, particularly young members, to special courses,

f) to help cultural life in the cooperative by establishing rooms with libraries, newspapers, radios etc.,

g) to encourage women and young people in agricultural production and in social life, and help them to take leading positions.

6. Work Organisation and Discipline.

Each member must work a minimum of 150 days annually on the cooperatively tilled land. The full meeting of members will fix the normal amount of work to be done in one working day. Work will be carried out in brigades, each of which will be led by a brigadier elected by the full meeting of members.

7. Distribution of the Income of the Cooperative.

The total harvest will be divided as follows:

a) the fulfillment of the fixed deliveries to the state,

b) the creation of a seed fund and an insurance fund,

c) the payment for work done on the cooperative fields by draught animals and machines owned by the members of the cooperative,

d) the creation of indivisible cooperative funds, not to exceed five percent of the total harvest yield.

The remainder of the harvest will be divided as follows among the members of the cooperative:

a) up to forty percent of the yield will be divided amongst the members in accordance with the quantity and quality of the land which they brought into the cooperative,

b) the remainder, but at least sixty percent, will be divided in accordance with the number of days worked in the course of the year.

8. Organisation of the Cooperative.

The full meeting of members elects the chairman and the committee of between three and five members for the term of one year. The committee will meet a least once a week to discuss economic and other problems.

A full meeting will be called at least once every two months. In addition a meeting will be called at any time when it is demanded by one third of the membership.

ACRES FOR WAR . . .

The West German authorities have given a total of over two and a half million acres of West German territory to the British, American and French troops for use as manoeuvre fields and shooting ranges, statistics published in Bonn show.

. . . ACRES FOR PEACE

In East Germany nearly seven million acres of former Junker estates were confiscated after 1945 and distributed to poor peasants and re-settlers, who are this year raising record crops on the land.

WHO THREATENS WHOM?

N. Y. Times Spills Beans

Western propaganda that West Germany must be rearmed because of the "huge Russian armies in East Germany" has been knocked into a cocked hat by a dispatch to the New York Times on September 4th from Drew Middleton, Bonn correspondent. GERMAN REPORT has no way of checking Mr. Middleton's statistics, but here is what he had to say:

"The core of the Western defence force is ten United States and British divisions in West Germany, totaling about 180,000 first line combat troops.

"The steady rearmament of the continental nations has added 135,000 French, Belgian and Dutch troops to the Supreme Allied Command and more than half of these are in Germany with the remainder disposed close to the German frontier.

"The troop strength in terms of available combat teams thus has progressed to about 315,000 men. This has been accompanied by the completion of a considerable number of installations such as airfields, supply depots and communications facilities, and by an improvement in both the quantity and quality of fighter planes and fighter bombers available.

The steady improvement in the military position of the West has not been matched by the Soviet armies in East Germany. There are thirty-six divisional headquarters in East Germany, but there are actually only twenty-two armoured and infantry divisions. According to present estimates Gen. Vassily I. Chuikov, Soviet Commander in Germany, has about 230,000 men in these twenty-two field divisions.

"The remaining fourteen divisional headquarters are administrative headquarters for regiments of the field, anti-aircraft and anti-tank artillery and for various technical units."

More details of the quantities of western troops in West Germany were given in the London "Times" of September 16th which reported:

"The largest land and air operation since the war began in the British zone to-night. Up to 200,000 British, Belgian, Canadian and Dutch troops are taking part with most of their armour, 500 Centurion tanks being employed.

"Later in the week German military experts and politicians will put in an appearance. Among them are Herr Theodor Blank, who is Dr. Adenauer's counsellor on security questions; Dr. Lehr, the Minister for the Interior, and Herr Heusinger, one of Dr. Adenauer's military advisers, who — almost for the first time in a British official statement — is given his old rank of General. Nearly 7000 members of the German Service Organisation will take part in the auxiliary services of the exercise."

(Whether these statistics are correct or not, they make it plain why the overwhelming majority of Germans in both parts of the country give their full support to the Soviet proposal, made on August 23rd, that the Four Powers should meet to fix a date for the withdrawal of all occupation troops.)

Schubert honoured

1953 will be Franz Schubert year in East Germany. In other years in the German Democratic Republic the anniversaries of Johannes Sebastian Bach und Ludwig van Beethoven have been similarly honoured. "Our special aim", said the President of the Schubert Association, "is to make the life and works of Franz Schubert known to the entire German people, but especially to workers and the youth." High point in the celebrations will be reached during the week of November 14th to 20th, when special concerts and scientific lectures will be held all over the Republic.

REUTER'S REMARKABLE RATS

By Ted Tinsley

"Wherever you look," said Arch, as he stood in the kitchen shelling peas, "you read further proof of the terrible conditions in East Berlin."

"What's the matter?" asked Edna. "Are they still getting flooded with unemployed workers from West Berlin looking for jobs?"

"Not that," said Arch.

"Are all the correspondents from West Berlin who write about how bad things are in East Berlin still slipping over to swap their West marks for East marks?"

"Maybe they are," said Arch. "But that's not what this story is all about."

"Please drop the peas in the pot and not on the floor."

Arch dutifully picked up a couple of peas and dropped them in the pot. "I was reading a dispatch," he said, "from Reuters in Berlin."

Edna was silent.

"Aren't you going to ask me what it said?" asked Arch.

"All right, Arch. What did it say?"

"It says that rats are plaguing East Berlin. They sit in the shop windows and gnaw at the wash on the washlines." He broke open another pea pod. "That just goes to show you," he said.

"Goes to show you what?"

"Socialism won't work."

Edna broke an egg into the raw hamburger. "Those must be awful smart rats," she said.

"What's so smart about them?"

"Well, look, Arch, East Berlin and West Berlin are right next to each other. What do they do—walk up to the border and turn back?"

"The dispatch doesn't say."

"Bad reporting," commented Edna. "Very bad. Maybe they read the signs."

Arch concentrated on the peas.

"But that wouldn't be easy," contiued Edna. "They'd have to read three languages: English, Russian, and German." She shook her head in perplexity. "I sure would like to know how the Berlin rodents realise when they reach the West Sector.

"No more peas," said Arch.

"Maybe," Edna went on, ignoring him, "maybe they can't cross the street alone."

"You," said Arch, accusingly, "are trying to make the whole Reuters dispatch silly."

"Me? Heavens, no! I'm just understandably curious when for the first time in history rodents examine all the political considerations before choosing their living quarters." Edna poured some salt and a little water pot. "Of course," she said, "it could be that there's a lot more to eat in East Berlin." She put the pot on the stove. "I still want to know why they won't cross that street," she said.

"I won't tell you," snapped Arch.

"That's all right, Arch. I didn't think you would."

(from the "Daily Worker", New York)

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

In previous numbers of GERMAN REPORT I have often commented on the astonishing inventive talents of British and American journalists regarding affairs in East Germany. I must say that I thought nothing in this line could shock me any longer.

However Mr. Antony Terry, Berlin correspondent of the Kemsley Chain of newspapers in Britain has provided a story of such epic nastiness that even the West Berlin newspapers, as far as I can check, have not used it.

Terry's Babies

In the Glasgow "Sunday Mail" dated August 31st, and presumably other papers of the Kemsley Chain, Terry reported that the East German Government had decided to start a string of baby farms, where eugenically selected parents would mate to produce babies.

Like all experienced liars Terry went into details of the alleged "Russian eugenics experts" sponsoring the scheme, and enlarged on the "race theories" behind it.

This story is simply one vast lie from beginning to end. I cannot answer it better than to quote from a reader's letter commenting on the article, which was published in the "Sunday Mail" one week later.

"My experience of the East German people that I had when met on a visit to Berlin last year convinced me that "race theories" (and racial discrimination of any kind) have successfully been eliminated from the schools, press and other educational functions.

Duncan Munro, 18 Bankfoot Rd., Glasgow."

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Most readers probably know the old jingle:

"You cannot hope to bribe or twist,
The honest British journalist,
But seeing what the man will do,
Unbribed,
There's no occasion to."

Irish Bull

I do not usually bother to comment on leading articles in the western press, but a Dublin reader has sent me a fine specimen from the "Irish Times", a paper which obviously regrets the grand old days when Ireland was a British colony.

This leader on the German Democratic Republic, published on September 15th, is such a fine collection of downright lies that I felt I must select a few.

"The East Germans can look forward to at least thirteen years during which they will work almost exclusively for their master in the Kremlin" says the Irish Times.

Official statistics show that reparations deliveries to the Soviet Union now amount to less than two percent of total production in East Germany, and are decreasing yearly. In any case reparation payments never approached the frightful damage caused by the nazi armies in the Soviet Union.

"Attested Communists are the sole representatives of public life... in East Germany".

The parties represented in the government are: Socialist Unity Party, Christian Democratic Union, Liberal Democratic Party, National Democratic Party, Democratic Peasant Party.

"There can be no question of a Russian withdrawal from East Germany".

In October 1950 the Soviet Union proposed that all occupation troops should be withdrawn from Germany within a year after the conclusion of a peace treaty. In almost all subsequent notes on the German problem sent by the Soviet Union, the question of a speedy withdrawal of the occupation troops has been raised.

There in a few lines are the answers to some of the "Irish Times" allegations. Full refutation of all the hares started in this one wonderfully badly informed leading article would fill a whole number of GERMAN REPORT.

Cold Shouldered

Don Cook, "New York Herald Tribune" correspondent in Germany, feels hurt. He has travelled to Leipzig, in the German Democratic Republic, to attend the Leipzig Fair, and has found that the people there are not gushingly friendly to every strange American they meet in the street.

Since Mr Cook often writes articles from West Berlin or Bonn explaining how everybody in East Germany longs to have the liberty to buy Coca Cola and Comics, this has hit him hard.

In a report to his paper on September 13th he sobbed out his heart:

"Our landlady was pleasant and correct, but kept her living-room door shut. The shop assistants listened and answered, but offered no responses beyond the price of this or that article. The waiters served us without comment or discussion.

"All this is the more ominous because the outward appearance of Leipzig is today so much more normal than it was 18 months ago. An American in Leipzig used to get the feeling that everybody was on his side. Today it is a silent city for a foreign visitor, and you don't know who is on your side."

Real Reason

Then Mr Cook goes on to explain this phenomenon. Reason one is that the East German government is bribing people by offering them "a bearable life". The second reason of course is that "police and informers" have cowed the entire Leipzig population into silence.

I would like to suggest to Mr Cook that the real reason is perhaps quite different. The Leipzigers — and the people of East Germany in general — do not relish the idea of being burnt to a crisp by American napalm bombs.

A few days before Mr Cook made his visit they had read the reports of General Eisenhower's speech threatening to "liberate" eastern Europe. Curiously enough, the ordinary people of East Germany have no desire to be "liberated" from the factories which now belong to them, from the social services which are better than ever before, from full employment, fine school and holiday camps for their children, and equal chances for everyone.

That is why they are cool and reserved when they meet an American, at least until they find out whether he intends to "liberate" them or not.

"Count Me Out"

Some English readers still have a pathetic belief in the reliability of news which they read in the London "Times". It may be shattered by the news from Bonn that John Freeman, "Times" correspondent there, has resigned from the Foreign Press Association because the Association invited to lunch the People's Chamber delegates who visited Bonn.

The Association has invited all sort of people to lunch, including American, British and nazi German generals, but Freeman only felt twinges of conscience when the guests were to be people visiting Bonn on a peace mission.

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